

IIT Madras – Adelaide Partnership Fund 2026

Call for Proposals

The strategic aim of the IIT Madras – Adelaide Partnership Fund is to provide a mechanism to build strong research links between the University of IIT Madras (IIT Madras) and Adelaide University in strategic areas including but not limited to:

- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Space**
- **Energy & Sustainability.**

Building on the connections established, this round focuses on deepening existing collaborations and fostering new ones, enabling staff to advance joint research initiatives, share expertise, and leverage institutional strengths, catalysing applications for larger external grants, and creating sustainable partnerships.

Overview of the Scheme

1. Joint grant scheme: one lead investigator from each institution. One application per project.
2. The program funds collaborative activities, such as research visits, workshops, conferences, joint outputs and dissemination of results. Eligible costs include travel, subsistence, event expenses, and project consumables.
3. All expenses are subject to the home institution's rules and regulations. Please inquire with your institution's grant coordinator (contact see below) for clarification.
4. Funds provided by each institution must be used exclusively for activities undertaken by that institution's personnel. Funds cannot be transferred between institutions.
5. Funds cannot be used for general equipment expenses (laptops, printers, etc.).

Project funding and duration

Base Funding: Maximum funding per project is AUD\$20,000, split evenly between the two institutions:

- Adelaide University: up to A\$10,000
- IIT Madras: up to A\$10,000

A successful proposal will:

- Involve a clear collaborative effort between faculty members at both IIT Madras and Adelaide, and
- Demonstrate clear potential to be sustainable through external funding sources in the future, with high quality outputs.

Application Process

1. Review guidelines and consult with the relevant senior leader. For multi-unit applications, designate a lead applicant. Each proposal must have one lead from IIT Madras and one from Adelaide University, and both must remain employed at their university during the project and for six months after.
2. Complete the Budget Plan (hyperlink).
3. Complete the [Foreign Compliance Review \(FCR\)](#).
4. Complete the Application Form (via Smartsheet; login with @adelaide.edu.au credentials): <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d4c47be054064fa2b8006ofdf16e41c8>
5. Submit all required documentation as a single PDF file: budget plan, support letters/emails (from Adelaide University and the partner), and approved FCR or FCR submission email.
6. Only complete submissions will be considered.
7. Late applications will not be considered.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

1. Budget. (20%)
2. Breadth and depth of engagement with eligible partners and across the University. (15%)
3. Measurable objectives and concrete outcomes. (20%)
4. Plan for sustainable collaboration beyond the funding period. (15%)
5. Alignment with Adelaide University's Strategic Ambition and Direction 2024-2034. (10%)
6. Likelihood of increasing the University's global reputation and profile. (20%)
7. Clear implementation plan and justified b

Key Dates

Date	Activity
19 February 2026	Call for applications opens
10 March 2026	Call closes – Deadline for applications (11:59pm Adelaide time / 18:59 Chennai time). Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
Mid-March 2026	Results announced
Late March – 30 November 2026	AU funding period
Late March 2026 – Late March 2027	IIT Madras funding period. Funding from IIT Madras is available for a period of 1 year from the date of award.
01 April 2026	Earliest start date for projects
30 November 2026	Funding fully utilised (Adelaide)
1 March 2027	Funding fully utilised (IIT Madras), Project closure
1 May 2027	Joint Project Report due or within 2 months of project closure); include PhD reflection report if applicable.

Contacts

Role	University	Name	Contact
Grant Coordinator	IIT Madras	Prof Satyanarayanan Seshadri – Advisor, Mobility Programs, Global Engagement	global.relations@ge.iitm.ac.in satya@iitm.ac.in
Grant Coordinator	AU	Daniel Tackage – Global Partnership Manager, Global Partnerships and Strategy	Daniel.Tackage@adelaide.edu.au

Appendix A

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 Proposals are invited from academic staff from all disciplines at IIT Madras and Adelaide University and their affiliated Research Centres and Institutes.
- 1.2 Applicants from affiliated Research Centres and Institutes must be University Title Holders.
- 1.3 Investigators must be employed on a full-time.
- 1.4 PhD and masters by research students, post-docs, and research assistants/associates are not eligible to apply as Investigators but they are welcome to join the applications.
- 1.5 Current recipients of PCA funding whose project is still ongoing and will not have finished by the application close date may apply for concurrent grants but are required to submit a progress report of their current project when submitting their application. The progress report should be an attachment to the application – single page, narrative update on project progress to date and unexpended award balance.
- 1.6 Previous recipients of PCA funding whose projects have finished or will have finished by the application close date may only apply for consecutive grants if they have submitted their final report.

2. Funds

- Funding from IIT Madras is available for a period of 1 year from the date of award.
- Funding from Adelaide University is available from award until 30th Nov 2026. Activities may continue under IIT Madras funding.
- For IITM researchers, an ICSR project account will be created and the fund can be claimed from the same, submitting necessary bills as per IITM travel policy. [TR-1Travel Claim Form](#)
- Funds to be utilized before the closing date of the project.
- For Adelaide University researchers, fund claim is per their institute policy.

3. Eligible Grant Activities					
<p>Activities that will be considered for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Airfares: Only travel on economy class will be considered ▪ Other travel expenses (e.g. train, rental car) ▪ Costs for hosting seminars/conferences or workshops ▪ Accommodation and subsistence ▪ Consumables ▪ Publications and printing costs 	<p>Activities that will not be considered for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General teaching; ▪ An individual staff member's research projects, unless as catalytic funding for the establishment of an international research collaboration with the prospect of external funding; ▪ Event registration fees; ▪ Venue hire if event held on campus ▪ Website development; ▪ Salaries or salary supplementation, and honoraria (Research/ project assistants may be possible with the approval of JFBMP advisor-Global Engagement IIT Madras/ Finance Manager and Head of School); ▪ Scholarships for students; ▪ Course fees for international students; ▪ Bench fees; ▪ Mobile phone cards; ▪ Entertainment costs; and ▪ Computers, including laptops (excluding access to high-performance computers or other specialised applications that are justified by the project) and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software. 				
4. Scoring and Selection Criteria					
<p>1.1 Priority is given to applications that align with the strategic research areas of both universities. Applications in other fields showing good prospect of sustainability are also welcome.</p> <p>1.2 Criteria do not have weightings; proposals are assessed holistically. Each proposal will be assessed according to the selection criteria described below.</p>					
5. Expected Outcomes					
<p>It is expected that the selected proposal will result in the following outcomes:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #1a237e; color: white;">Category</th> <th style="background-color: #1a237e; color: white;">Outcome</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 30px;"> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category	Outcome		
Category	Outcome				

Research quality and influence	<p>The research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - will advance knowledge in the field which addresses an issue of importance - may result in fundamental outcomes - is innovative in concept <p>will use well established approaches to good effect</p>
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At least one (1) referred publication in a nationally/internationally recognised scholarly journal
External funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At least one (1) Category 1-3^(*2) national/international competitive grant submission. ● Details of the external funding bodies to which you plan to submit applications must be identified within the application form. ● Proof of submission is required in the final report.
Training & education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision and mentoring of visiting PhD students/postdoctoral researchers/ECRs
Joint Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A joint workshop at either institution. This may be in-person, virtual or hybrid.
Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A conference presentation. This may be online.

Industry engagement is encouraged, but not expected. If proposals include industry engagement, then details should be provided in the timeline/activities section of the online application.

- ^{*2} **Category 1:** Competitive grants such as SERB core support, DST extra mural funding, regional country, Competitive Grant, Research Income. For example, grants of that country may be included here, etc.
- **Category 2:** Other Public Sector Research Funding. Other Indian/Partner university Government schemes (including state govt and govt funded bodies)
- **Category 3:** Industry and other Funding for Research. Research grants or contract research with Indian/ Australian or international industry or non-Government agencies. Funding through donations/ CSR (corporate social responsibility) or any other sources

6. Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a final report using the provided template within two months of the project end date and no later than end of February 2027. The report must include:

- Summary of activities undertaken.

- Project outcomes and achievements.
- Future plans and next steps for collaboration
- Acquittal of expenditure against the approved budget.

AU Global Partnerships may use report information for country engagement briefs, profiling, and communication channels (including website and social media).

7. **Assessment Process**

- Award selection will be made by a joint committee formed by members of both universities, which reserves final authority over the selection of projects taking into account university and faculty strategic priorities, and the availability of funds.

8. **Notification of Application Outcomes**

- Successful applicants will receive a letter of award outlining the process to accept the award including payment. Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.

9. **Change of Investigator**

- Awardees should contact the Program Coordinator at each institution. Such changes will need to be approved and documented.

10. **Travel Policy**

All travel activities must comply with the guidelines of the respective universities.

- **IIT Madras** – All IIT Madras travel must comply with its relevant travel policy.
Must apply through workflow, obtain letter of support upon invitation from partner institute, apply for VISA, and post travel to submit bills. TR-1 [Travel Claim Form](#)
- **Partner**– All Partner faculty travel must comply with partner institutions relevant travel policy

11. **Extensions**

- Only under exceptional circumstances will extensions for funding be approved for IIT Madras awardees. Requests for extensions must be submitted to the Program Coordinators in writing at least 2 months before project end date and include a revised budget and timeline of activities for consideration.
- Extensions for funding are not able to be provided by Adelaide University

12. **Financial and Reporting Obligations**

- 11.1. The funding should only be used for the approved project and in accordance with the proposal and the budget plan. It must not be used for any other purposes and prior approval from both universities is needed for any variation in the budget items. Request for variations from original proposals must be submitted to both universities for approval.
- 11.2. Awardees must adhere to the purchasing guidelines of the respective universities to which reimbursement is to be sought. Reimbursement of each expenditure item will be capped at the approved amount.

11.3.	Awardees must submit a final report to the respective campus coordinators at IIT Madras and Adelaide University.
11.4.	Failure to submit a completed report will result in all members of the project team being ineligible to submit future funding applications.
11.5.	The activation of research funding accounts/submission of claims are not tied to ethics/other approvals being obtained. It is the responsibility of Investigators to ensure that no work requiring approval is commenced until such approvals are in place.
13. Marketing and Communications	
•	Awardees may be contacted by the office of Global Engagement social media team for the purposes of promoting their successful funding application and informing others of their research.
14. Publications	
•	Any publications (e.g. abstracts, articles) or dissemination (e.g. public presentations) arising from activities supported by the PCA should acknowledge assistance received from the PCA and copies or notification should be submitted to the Office of Global & Research Engagement at IIT Madras and the Office of Global Engagement at Adelaide University. The standard acknowledgment is “ IIT Madras - Adelaide University Joint Partnership Collaboration Awards ”.

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